

Let's Get ExCITED!  
Navigating *The Bluebook*,  
Avoiding Common Errors

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## 1 | Parallel Citations (Table 1)

- Opinions appearing in multiple reporters have multiple citations.
- Consult TABLE 1 to determine preferred source in relevant jurisdiction.
- Let's use Oregon as an example:
  - Supreme Court (Or.): Cite to P., P.2d, or P.3d before citing to Or.
  - Court of Appeals (Or. Ct. App.): Cite to P.2d or P.3d before citing to Or. App.

**YES:** *Klein v. Or. Bur. of Labor and Indus.*, 410 P.3d 1051 (Or. Ct. App. 2017)

**No:** *Klein v. Or. Bur. of Labor and Indus.*, 289 Or. App. 507 (2017)

- Abbreviation for jurisdiction must appear in parentheses with date of decision when reporter's name does not reveal jurisdiction.
- Again, let's use Oregon as an example:
  - Supreme Court (Or.): Cite to P., P.2d, or P.3d before citing to Or.
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## Abbreviations and Numbers (Rule 6)

- **RULE 6.1**
  - **Adjacent single capital letters do not have spaces between them, but there is a space between single capital letters and longer chunks of abbreviation.**
  - **Pay especially close attention to this rule when formatting reporter names in case citations!**
  - **Abbreviate United States to U.S. only when using U.S. as an adjective.**
  - **Become familiar with Table 6 (and other tables).**
- **RULE 6.2: Write out numbers in words up to and including ninety-nine...but there are many exceptions!**
  - **Do you need to begin a sentence with a number? > Write out the number in words**
  - **Does the number include a decimal point? > Use numerals**
  - **Do you need to refer repeatedly to percentages or monetary values? > Use numerals**
  - **Do not use superscripts for ordinal numbers.**

## 4 | Pincites and Short-form Citations (Rule 4)

- Locate starred numbers immediately before and after target text; the number immediately before the target text is the page number where the target text appears in the reporter.
- If the opinion appears in multiple reporters, then you will encounter multiple sets of starred numbers.
- Provide full citation information the first time authority is cited.
- Use short-form citation for subsequent references to same authority:
  - a. *Party A*, Volume Reporter at Pincite
  - b. *Id.* / *Id.* at Pincite [Use only when citing same authority multiple times in a row and only when the immediately preceding citation includes a reference to a single authority.]

- Is the quotation fifty or more words? > Format as a block quotation
- Is the quotation forty-nine or fewer words? > Put comma or period within quotation marks
- Do you need to modify or omit a single letter or word? > Use brackets [ ]
- Did you add emphasis? > Use a parenthetical clause
- Did you omit words? > Use an ellipsis . . .

- Capitalize nouns identifying specific persons, officials, groups, government offices, government bodies.
- Capitalize the following under certain circumstances:
  - Act: specific legislative act
  - Circuit: specific circuit by name or number
  - Code: specific code
  - Commonwealth: part of title of state, modifies capitalized word, refers to state as actor or party
  - Constitution: specific constitution in full, U.S. Constitution and parts thereof
  - Court: specific court in full, United States Supreme Court
  - Federal: modifies capitalized word
  - Judge/Justice: specific name, member of the United States Supreme Court
  - State: part of full title of state, modifies capitalized word, refers to state as actor or party
  - Term: Term of the United States Supreme Court

## Introductory Signals (Rule 1.2)

- **When you should use introductory signals?**
  - A signal sends the message to the reader about the relationship between your assertion and the source/authority you've cited for that assertion
  - A signal is not needed when you are using direct quotations from a source or when you are directly pulling that assertion from the source
- **Different Signals and Their Meanings**
  - *E.g.*: the authority is one of multiple that supports your assertion
  - *See*: the authority supports your assertion but does not directly state it
  - *See also*: the authority provides additional materials supporting the assertion
  - *Compare with*: the authority provides an important comparison to or difference from the assertion
  - *Contra, But See, But cf.*: the authority supports an assertion contrary to your assertion
  - *See generally*: the authority provides helpful background information on the assertion

- Does the case you're citing quote another case in the opinion for that assertion?
  - Quoting/Citing Parentheticals Citations RULE 10.6.2
    - *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 719 (2001)(citing *Shaughnessy v. United States*, 345 U.S. 206 (1953)).
- Are you using an introductory signal that requires an explanatory?
  - Usually, *see*, *see also*, *compare with*, *see generally*, and *contra*/*but see* require a short explanatory parenthetical to show why the source is relevant RULE 1.2. If not directly providing a quote, the explanatory phrase must start with a present participle!
  - Parentheticals can:
    - summarize the holding of a case: *But see Lodi v. Lodi*, 219 Cal. Rptr. 116, 118 (Ct. App. 1985) (holding that a man could not sue himself for trying to raid his own trust fund).
    - summarize the facts of a case: *See also Commonwealth v. Ireland*, 31 N.E.2d 33, 43 (Mass. 1977) (involving a tracking dog that was a purebred bloodhound, was in good health, had been trained to pursue humans for eight months by an Army trainer, and had, in fact, located at least twenty-four missing persons).
    - give a quote from a source: *See Holt v. State*, 435 Md. 443, 450 (2013) (“The detectives testified that Blue arrived at Lake Montebello and parked his vehicle near a workout station.”).

#### 4

- State Laws T1

- Each state will have its own citation form for its different kinds of laws

- OR. REV. STAT. § x.x (<year>)
- N.H. REV. STAT. ANN.§ x:x (<year>)

- Federal Statutes Rule 12 (a current statute will almost certainly be in the official U.S. Code)

- Citing to a current law or statute broadly?

- Official Name, U.S.C Title Number, U.S.C. §§ Sections of the entire law (year of edition)
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601-9675 (2012).

- Citing to a specific provision?

- U.S.C. Title Number, U.S.C. § Specific Section (year of edition)
- 28 U.S.C. § 1291 (2012).